

retina has become fatigued and surcharged with the two images by long attention. The principal attention being directed to *p*, its limb will appear to pass over that of *m*; whilst an equal attention to both will cause them to intersect like two translucent disks. This double intersection is not apparent when one of the bodies is very small, the light of the larger being suffused over the smaller, which, moreover, does not present sufficient area to allow the intersection of so small a portion of the larger limb to be observed. When the apparent diameter of *p* is not greater than that of the coexisting limbs, as when the experiment is performed with a small pin's head and a silver coin, it is evident that the greater part, if not the whole of the image, may coalesce with that of *m* upon the retina, producing the phenomenon in question.

I wish this experiment to be verified by other eyes than my own, especially as it has only succeeded with my near-sighted eye, at arm's length, during day-light. At about six feet distance, by lamp-light, and with two dimes, my son could not distinguish which one passed over the other; or rather he believed that the moving body (*p*) passed in front; but I did not allow more than one-tenth inch of intersection. A single person might perform the experiment by placing the disks upon one end of a strip of board, and so adjusting them, that by the motion of the board, the one should appear to the eye stationed at the other end, to pass over the other.

Pending nominations, from No. 203 to 223, inclusive, and new nomination, 224, were read.

Prof. Frazer, Reporter, laid upon the table No. 39, Vol. IV. of the Proceedings of the Society.

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*Stated Meeting, April 21.*

Present, thirty-five members.

Dr. PATTERSON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were received and read:—

From the New York Historical Society, dated New York, 9th April, 1848, transmitting the Proceedings of the Society,

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and asking for some missing numbers of the Proceedings of this Society:—

From the New Jersey Historical Society, dated 11th April, 1848, acknowledging the receipt of Vol. X., Part 1, of the Transactions of this Society:—

From Mr. E. Geo. Squier, dated New York, 16th April, 1848, transmitting a donation: and,—

From Hon. Mahlon Dickerson, dated Suckasunny, N. J., 13th April, 1848, accompanying a donation towards defraying the expenses of publication of the Proceedings of this Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London. No. 13.

Feb. 1, 1848.—*From the Society.*

Proceedings of the Astronomical Society of London.—*From the Society.*

Annals and Magazine of Natural History, &c. Second Series. Vol.

1. No. 3. March, 1848.—*From Sir Wm. Jardine, Bart.*

Proceedings of the New York Historical Society, for the Year 1847; together with the Charter and By-laws of the Society.—*From the Society.*

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Vol. III. No. 10. July and August, 1847.—*From the Academy.*

Transactions of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, from December, 1847, to March, 1848, inclusive.—*From the College of Physicians.*

Medical News and Library. Vol. VI. No. 64. April, 1848.—*From Lea & Blanchard.*

American Journal of the Medical Sciences. No. XXX. New Series. April, 1848.—*From Isaac Hays, M.D.*

A Descriptive Catalogue of the Anatomical Museum of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement. By J. B. S. Jackson, M.D.—*From the Society.*

Report of a Geological Exploration of part of Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois, made under Instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, in the Autumn of the Year 1839. By David Dale Owen, M.D.—*From the Hon. George M. Dallas.*

- On a new Genus and Species of Fossil Ruminantia; *Poebrotherium Wilsoni*: and, On some Bodies in the Boa Constrictor, resembling the Pacinian Corpuscles. By Joseph Leidy, M.D.—*From the Author.*
- Journal of the Franklin Institute. Third Series. Vol. XV. No. 4. April, 1848.—*From the Institute.*
- Observations on the Aboriginal Monuments of the Mississippi Valley; the Character of the Ancient Earthworks; and the Structure, Contents, and Purposes of the Mounds; with Notices of the Minor Remains of Ancient Art. By E. G. Squier.—*From the Author.*
- Report of the General Executive Committee of the City and County of Philadelphia, appointed by the Town Meeting of February 17, 1847, to provide means to relieve the Sufferings in Ireland.—*From the Committee.*
- A Call for Redress, to the enlightened and the just of the British Public, in a matter of Piracy committed on Dr. J. G. Flügel's English and German Dictionary. Second Edition. Leipsic, 1838. By the injured Author. Also, an Extra Impression of the Preface and Introduction to Dr. J. G. Flügel's Practical Dictionary. First Part. Leipsic and Hamburg, 1847.—*From Dr. J. G. Flügel.*
- Report to the Stockholders of the Dauphin and Susquehanna Coal Company. February, 1848.—*From Isaac Lea, Esq.*
- Mémoires de la Société Royale des Antiquaires du Nord. 1845—1847.—*From the Royal Society of Antiquaries of the North, Copenhagen.*
- Aperçu de l'Ancienne Géographie des Régions Arctiques de l'Amérique, selon les Rapports contenus dans les Sagas du Nord. Par Charles Christian Rafn. Copenhagen, 1847.—*From the Author.*
- Akstykker for største delen hidtil ntrykte til oplysning især af Danmarks indre Forhold i ældre tyd. Samlede og udgivne af Fyers Stifts Literaire Selskab. Odense, 1845.—*From the Literary Society of Funen.*
- Contemplations on the Solar System. By J. P. Nichol, LL.D.—*From the Author.*

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY BY PURCHASE.

- The London, Edinburgh and Dublin Philosophical Magazine, and Journal of Science. Vol. XXXII. No. 214. March, 1848.
- Astronomische Nachrichten. Nos. 626 and 627; with Index to Vol. XXVI.

Dr. F. Bache, on the part of Dr. Wood, read an obituary notice of the late Dr. Beasley.

Dr. Emerson made a verbal communication relative to causes operative in changing the proportions of the sexes at birth.

He referred to a verbal statement formerly made by him, and noticed in the Bulletin (No. 34), upon the predominance of male births, which, in Philadelphia, was usually about 7 per cent. over that of females. Having been recently engaged in researches into the vital statistics of Philadelphia, and adding another decennial period, embracing from 1830 to 1840, he casually observed an interesting fact connected with the physiology of reproduction in the human race, namely, that the prevalence of epidemic cholera had exerted a very strong influence unfavourable to the conception of males. In 1833, the year succeeding that of the first cholera visitation, the ordinary excess of male births (7 per cent.) had been reduced to about one per cent. The amount of the yearly male excess, which was generally some hundreds, had sunk to only 38. An examination of the monthly returns of births in 1833, showed, that in the two which corresponded with the months of conception, when the cholera prevailed in 1832, the females greatly predominated over the males. Dr. E. stated, that on referring to the Paris registration of births for 1833, the year following the cholera, he found a similar reduction in the male excess.

Prof. Kendall presented the following table, containing the most recent results of the labours of Mr. Sears C. Walker in regard to the planet Neptune.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \pi = 47^{\circ} 12' 6.50'' \} \\
 \Omega = 130 \quad 4 \quad 20.81 \} \text{ m. eq. Jan. 1, 1847.} \\
 i = 1 \quad 46 \quad 58.97 \\
 e = 0.00871946 \\
 \mu = 21''.55448 \\
 M = 328^{\circ} 32' 44''.20 \text{ m. noon, Green. Jan. 1. 1847.} \\
 T = 164 \frac{6121}{10000} \text{ trop. years.}
 \end{array}$$

*Correction of the Ephemeris from Elements Second, after applying  
Prof. Peirce's recent Values of the Perturbations in R. A. and  
Dec.*

Date.	Obs.—Eph.	No. Obs.	Obs.—Eph.	No. Obs.
	R. A.		Dec.	
1795. May 8,	— 0.29	1	+ 0.79	1
9,	+ 1.18	1	+ .31	1
1846. Sept. 26,	— 0.21	160	+ .55	144
Oct. 4,	— .11	210	+ .54	188
12,	— .29	277	+ .64	244
20,	— .26	336	+ .60	293
28,	— .20	349	+ .53	304
Nov. 5,	— .11	343	+ .62	297
13,	— .04	317	+ .64	273
21,	+ .04	305	+ .70	258
29,	+ .08	272	+ .75	235
Dec. 7,	+ .34	209	+ .69	179
15,	+ .51	168	+ .84	148
23,	+ .60	132	+ .95	120
31,	+ .95	90	+ .92	80
1847. Jan. 8,	+ .79	63	+ .98	50
April 6,	+ .42	15	— .18	16
July 27,	— .49	53	+ .16	50
Aug. 4,	— .59	68	+ .14	65
12,	— .58	81	+ .15	75
20,	— .64	76	+ .19	71
28,	— .76	83	+ .40	76
Sept. 5,	— .61	76	+ .31	83
13,	— .58	76	+ .46	80
21,	— .71	61	+ .48	67
29,	— .73	50	+ .56	57
Oct. 7,	— .95	65	+ .58	57
15,	— .85	65	+ .76	67
23,	— .94	70	+ .92	61
31,	— .95	63	+ .87	65
Nov. 8,	— .96	46	+ .77	51
16,	— .74	53	+ .93	48
24,	— .56	45	+ .99	45
Dec. 2,	— .24	35	+ .89	30
10,	— .09	27	+ .72	22
18,	— .44	18	+ .89	18

The Society then proceeded to ballot for candidates for membership.

After which, the other business of the meeting having been disposed of, the ballot boxes were opened and examined, and

the following gentlemen declared to have been duly elected members of this Society:—

ROBERT C. GRIER, Judge U. S. Supreme Court.

SIMON GREENLEAF, Harvard University.

WILLIAM KENT, of New York.

WILLIAM L. STORRS, of Connecticut.

JOEL JONES, President of Girard College, Philadelphia.

JOHN REED, of Dickinson College, Carlisle.

ALEXANDER M. STEVENS, M.D., of New York.

HARMAR DENNY, of Pittsburg.

RALPH J. INGERSOLL, of Connecticut.

JOHN N. CONYNGHAM, of Luzerne County, Pa.

CHARLES PICOT, of Philadelphia.

E. GEDDINGS, M.D., of South Carolina.

CALDERON DE LA BARCA, of Washington.

F. A. POUCHET, of Rouen.

MIERS FISHER LONGSTRETH, of Philadelphia.

SAMUEL F. B. MORSE, of New York.